

assured that their financial reporting will be of the caliber they are entitled to.

With the continued help of their Chief Executive Officer Buddy Turman, I am confident that the FICP A will continue to build upon its legacy from the last 100 years and allow the profession of accounting to maintain its prominent role in our society. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 100th Anniversary of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

REGARDING: TEJANO SINGER
LAURA CANALES

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow Texans—and many around the Southwest and the nation in paying special tribute to Laura Canales, a very special artistic pioneer, and a talented South Texan, who accomplished great things throughout her lifetime of performing.

Before there was the phenomenon of Tejano giant Selena, there was Laura Canales, who paved the way for a number of Tejano artists in the late 20th Century. She contributed much to our culture and to the music industry, and became known as the “Barbara Streisand of Tejano music” and as “Reina de la Onda Tejana,” (queen of the Tejano wave).

Tejano is a popular type of music in Texas and the Southwest that has become a huge industry with its own category in the Grammy Awards. Tejano is a combination of rock-n-roll and German Conjunto music. Some of the cultural influences on Tejano music include: Anglo, African, German, and Italian.

Tejano was originally dominated by male performers and it was nearly impossible for women to break through in this genre. Laura Canales, with her unique voice and love of performing, became the first woman to enjoy real success in the world of Tejano, and was honored as the first woman to be inducted into the Tejano ROOTS Hall of Fame in Alice, Texas. This museum is the only one that is entirely dedicated in honoring great Tejano music figures.

Laura's influence on Tejano music became readily apparent during the 1970's and 1980's. With her distinctive voice and popularity, she released various albums that became hits, including her debut album, *Si Vivi Contigo*. Her numerous accomplishments include a dozen Tejano music awards, including Female Vocalist of the Year, Female Artist of the Year, and Female Entertainer of the Year. This Kingsville, Texas, native also understood the value of education, earning a bachelor's degree in clinical psychology from Texas A&M University and pursuing a master's degree.

Laura Canales proved that a woman could be successful in the Tejano music industry . . . she broke the gender barriers that existed at the dawn of the emergence of popular Tejano . . . and she paved the way for future, female Tejano performers.

This Tejano legend and daughter of South Texas will truly be missed, although she will live on in her music, to be enjoyed by many future connoisseurs of Tejano. I ask my col-

leagues to join me in keeping her family—and her many fans—in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
HOBOKEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of Hoboken, New Jersey, on its sesquicentennial celebration. The people of Hoboken will be commemorating this event with a series of activities throughout the spring and summer. Last weekend, the community held its 150th Anniversary Parade on April 16, 2005.

Located on the shore of the Hudson River, Hoboken is known for its lively atmosphere and rich history. The area was developed almost single-handedly by Colonel John Stevens, who bought the land for \$90,000 in 1784. On March 28, 1855, it was incorporated as a city. The late nineteenth century brought a sharp increase in immigration due to Hoboken's proximity to Ellis Island and, by 1890, over 40 percent of the population was foreign-born. Hoboken developed and grew as a manufacturing hub with shipbuilding as the primary industry. The 20th century also brought the development of public transportation and the railroads, ferries, and Port Authority Trans-Hudson, PATH, Tube that transformed Hoboken into a bustling transportation center. The city piers soon became a focal point for trans-Atlantic commerce. More than three million Americans passed through Hoboken on their way to or from World War I. In the past few decades the shipyards have closed as Hoboken has transformed from an industrial area into an affluent neighborhood full of young professionals and known for its variety of restaurants and vibrant nightlife.

The birthplace of Frank Sinatra, Hoboken also claims such famous citizens as photographer Dorothea Lange and painter Willem de Kooning. Additionally, it boasts many notable firsts, including the first ice cream cone, the first steamboat, the first locomotive, and the first brewery. Many also believe that the first organized baseball game was played on Hoboken's Elysian Fields in 1846.

In order to commemorate its momentous sesquicentennial birthday, Hoboken has planned a wide variety of celebrations that will serve to honor the progress and development of the past 150 years. Some of these activities include the creation of a time capsule, the painting of a historical mural, an anniversary gala and fundraiser, an evening concert series, and a spaghetti dinner block party. Hoboken will also host a vintage baseball festival and an arts and music festival.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the city of Hoboken on its 150th anniversary. This momentous occasion allows us to reflect on the city's colorful past and look towards its promising future with hope and enthusiasm. I am proud to be a resident of this community, and I congratulate the people of Hoboken on making this city a wonderful place to call home.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of working women across America and in support of the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Every April, supporters of equal pay mark our progress on this issue by noting the time of year in which women's wages “catch up” to the wages paid to men from the previous year. Although we have made great strides in women's equality, women still earn \$.76 for each dollar that men earn. In my home state of Minnesota, that number is \$.72. In real terms, this means that women and their families are being shortchanged thousands of dollars a year.

Minnesota women have the highest labor force participation in the nation and educational attainment continues to grow. With this remarkable increase in women's participation in the economy, more and more families are reliant on women's paychecks to make ends meet. If we are serious about ensuring fairness for all, about leaving no child behind, and about helping families achieve financial stability now and in the future, then Congress must act to address this significant wage gap.

For this reason, I am proud to be a cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. This bill will take concrete steps to eliminate gender-based wage discrimination. It will provide for enhanced outreach and training programs for employers, allow employees to share salary information, and give women the opportunity to sue for punitive damages under the Equal Pay Act. It is my hope that the Administration and the Republican leadership will make a serious effort to address this discrimination this Congress.

Along with wage disparity, we must continue to focus on issues of work place safety, equal treatment, and career advancement. As a woman, a mother, and a Member of Congress, I will continue to fight for equal pay, quality health care, safe work environments, and education opportunities for girls and women to ensure that they can pursue the American dream.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD A.
MITCHELL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 20, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise before you today to honor Edward A. Mitchell, of Flint, Michigan, my hometown. On Wednesday, April 20, the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan will honor Mr. Mitchell's selfless contributions and dedication to improving the quality of life for thousands of residents of Genesee County.

A native of Flint, Edward Mitchell graduated from Central High School in 1947, and later studied at Flint Junior College. At the age of 18, Ed began what became a 50-year career with the Flint Journal, starting out as an Ad Services employee. A year later, he became